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Around the Nation

West German Sentenced To 15 Years for Spying

TAMPA, Fla., Aug. 3 (AP) — Ernst Ludwig Forbrich, a West German automobile mechanic, was sentenced today to 15 years in prison for buying United States military secrets to pass to East Germany. He could have received a life term.

Federal District Judge Ben Krentzman sentenced Mr. Forbrich on two counts of espionage.

Mr. Forbrich received 15 years for trying to pass the document to foreign intelligence. That charge carried a possible life term. He was sentenced to the maximum 10 years for buying the document. The judge said the terms would run concurrently.

A jury convicted the 44-year-old Mr. Forbrich on June 29. The key evidence in the Government's case was a secretly made videotape showing Mr. Forbrich swapping \$550 for a classified military secret.

Mr. Forbrich, a native of East Germany whose family escaped to the West, owns a garage in West Germany near a United States Army base.